(b) by when these projects are likely to be completed;

(c) whether more districts are proposed to be covered under PMGY; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) Under rural drinking water component of Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY), Department of Drinking Water Supply in the Ministry of Rural Development has not approved any pilot projects of Rural Water Supply Programme in Chittoor, Khammam, Nalgonda, Nellore, Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Distribution and Transmission Losses

†*313. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Wil the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power shortage in peak as well as general hours in the country can be brought to negligible level by bringing the losses in its distribution and transmission system at the international level;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the power distribution and transmission losses at international level have been assessed at six per cent only; and

(c) if not, the percentage thereof and what is the Government's time-bound scheme for bringing the above said power losses to the international level?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The transmission and distribution (T&D) losses in the developed countries of the world are in the range of 6-11%. The level of T&D losses in the country is around 31% and is higher than that of the developed countries of the world. While the losses in Extra High Voltage network (EHV) about 4-5% bulk of the losses occur in the sub-transmission and distribution systems.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The reasons for high T&D losses in the country are on account of:

i. weak and inadequate sub-transmission and distribution system due to low priority being given to these works

ii. large scale rural electrification programme undertaken in the country resulting in long lines and extension of distribution network without strengthening the back-up transmission and sub-transmission system

iii. too many transformation stages resulting in higher component of transformation losses

iv. improper load management resulting in over loading of system

v. lower power factor due to pumping load in rural areas, and air conditioners, coolers and industrial loads in urban areas and inadequate reactive compensation at the load points

vi. low quality of construction and inadequate maintenance of equipment

vii. unmetered supply to agricultural pumps and small domestic connections to weaker sections of the society in some states

viii. pilferage and theft of energy.

In order to achieve commercial viability, Ministry of Power has formulated a six level intervention strategy that encompasses initiatives at national level, state level, SEB/Utility level, distribution circle level, feeder level and the consumer level. This six level intervention strategy will focus on accountability, deliverability and performance at all levels to rejuvenate the distribution sector, where the maximum interface with the ultimate customers exists, the highest value addition occurs, and eighty percent of total T&D losses including nearly all the commercial losses take place.

To give a strong impetus to the process of reforms, the Ministry of Power organized a Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers on Power Sector Reforms on 3rd March 2001. It was emphasised *inter alia* that commercial viability has to be achieved in distribution in 2-3 years through any or all of the following

— Creating profit centres with full accountability

— Handing over local distribution to Panchayats/Local Bodies/ Franchisees/Users Association, wherever necessary

— Privatisation of distribution

25 States have signed Memorandum of Understanding for undertaking reforms and restructuring in a time bound manner and linking the support of Government of India to achievement of predetermined milestones.To bring about commitment towards distribution reforms, State Electricity Boards/Utilities have been asked to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Ministry of Power as a pre-requisite for release of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) funds. Till now 18 States have signed the MoA. A number of States have enacted anti-electricity theft legislation.

To reduce the transmission and distribution losses in a phased manner, the Government of India has launched the APDRP in February 2000.The APDRP includes upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution network, energy audit activities and metering in a phased manner.

Statehood to Delhi

*314. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as on date Delhi has the status of a State of the Indian Union;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to confer Statehood to Delhi in the near future;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) With a view to evolving a consensus amongst political parties and other stakeholders on grant of Statehood to Delhi and institutional and structural changes that would follow the Statehood, Government of India have sought the views of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi in the matter. Considering the nature of the process, no definite timeframe can be prescribed for granting Statehood to Delhi.